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GAME AND FISH
PROTECTION AND
PROPAGATION
IN
OREGON
1911-1912

By WILLIAM L. FISKE

STATE GAME WARDEN



• YEARLING ELK •

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**GAME AND FISH
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Game Protection and Propagation



THE legislative session of 1911 passed a law creating a State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners. This Commission was appointed by Governor Oswald West, and took office May 22, 1911. The law gave the Commission full authority in all matters pertaining to the protection and propagation of fish and game. It gave the Board exclusive power in the spending of all moneys

in the Game Protection Fund and the Hatcheries Fund.

The object of this report is to tell what has been accomplished in game protection and propagation from the time the Commissioners took office to the close of the biennial period, December 1, 1912. These facts relate to the collection and the spending of the Game Protection Fund. A separate report written by Master Fish Warden R. E. Clanton relates to the Hatcheries Fund and matters pertaining to commercial fishing.

The law establishing this Commission provides for a Board of five members, four to be appointed by the Governor, one each year and each serving a term of four years. The fifth member of the Board is selected by the other four members from the state at large. His term of service is one year. This law provides that no more than two members shall be appointed from the same political party. Two must be residents of the eastern part of the state, that is, of that section lying east of the Cascade Range, and the other two must reside in the western part of the state. The members of the Board receive no compensation for their services other than five dollars per day when the Board is in actual session in the discharge of its duties. The total amount for such services shall not exceed the sum of one hundred dollars per year for each member. In addition the members of the Board are allowed their necessary traveling expenses.

The Board, or a majority thereof, shall have full power and authority to enforce all laws for the protection, preservation and propagation of game and commercial fish, game animals, game and non-game birds within the state. They shall have exclusive power to expend and disburse all funds acquired for these purposes, which are derived from state appropriations, licenses, gifts or otherwise.

**The
Commission
Law**

The Game Protection Fund is derived from two sources, hunting and angling licenses, and fines imposed for the violation of game laws.

**The Game
Protection
Fund**

This Fund was established in 1905 when the Legislature passed the Hunter's License Law. It provides that all residents must pay \$1.00 for the privilege of hunting or killing game birds and animals; all non-residents are taxed \$10.00 for this privilege. The Legislature of 1909 enacted an Angler's License Law which provided for a license of \$1.00 for residents and \$5.00 for non-residents.



Chinese Pheasant Mother

When the State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners took office, there was an accumulation of about \$60,000.00 in the Game Protection Fund. A part of this sum accumulated from anglers' licenses. From 1909 until 1911, there was no provision in the law, according to Attorney General Crawford, for the spending of anglers' license money in the building of hatcheries or in the artificial propagation of trout. During the year 1911, there were between \$70,000.00 and \$80,000.00 collected.

It is impossible to get the exact amount of hunting and angling license money collected during the period preceding 1912, as each county in the state printed and paid for its own fishing and hunting license blanks. There was no system of numbering or counting throughout the state as a whole. The license money for individual quarters or years was not kept separate, but sent to the State Treasurer at such time when it was most convenient for the County Clerk. No separate account of hunting and angling licenses was kept. Beginning with January 1, 1912, the Commission



Reeves Pheasant Chick

printed and paid for all license blanks out of the Game Protection Fund. These license blanks were numbered consecutively; therefore, for the year 1912, we have accurate data available showing that 83,162 hunting and angling licenses were issued, of which there were 39,267 hunting, 43,433 angling, 152 non-resident hunting and 310 non-resident angling licenses. The total amount collected and paid into the Game Protection Fund was \$85,770.00.

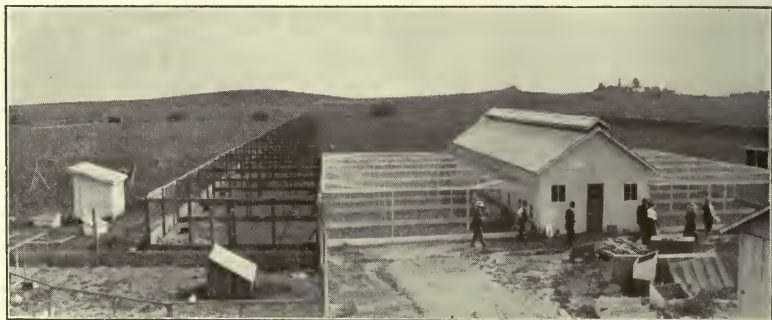


Male Reeves Pheasant

Inasmuch as the state had not checked the different moneys from the various counties for licenses and fines derived from violations of the State Game Laws, from 1905 to the beginning of 1912, the Commission ordered that this be done. It was found that for the issuing of licenses in different counties during these years there were back accounts unpaid to the extent of \$16,303.00. This shortage was checked on license stubs that were found. In many counties license stubs had been destroyed or lost, so it

Checking Game Fund

will never be known exactly how much the Game Protection Fund has lost. It was also found that there were fines amounting to \$4787.86 in the different county treasuries, which had not been paid into the State Treasury and placed to the credit of the Game Protection Fund. This makes a total of \$21,090.86 which was added to the Game Protection Fund by checking these old accounts.



Breeding Pens for Pheasants, State Game Farm

The State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners is anxious to keep our fields and forests well stocked with game birds. Native birds, such as the mountain and valley quail, ruffed and sooty grouse are still abundant in many localities. The grouse are birds of the thicket and woods. As the trees are cut and the land is cleared, their breeding places are destroyed and they are growing less in number. By experiment it has been found that the Chinese, or ring-necked pheasant, is a bird that thrives remarkably well in almost every section of the state. The introduction of the Hungarian partridge has also been very successful. Very fair results have been secured with the Reeves pheasants in certain localities in the Willamette Valley. In several places these birds have bred in the wild state, but the experiment has not been carried far enough to determine whether they will really get a good start and perpetuate themselves. Silver and golden pheasants are reared in captivity, and although quite a number of them have been liberated in places, I do not know of any locality where they are breeding in a wild state. The difficulty seems to be to get these birds to go wild. For this reason it is a question whether these species can ever be used for game birds, although they are beautiful for ornamental purposes.

Game Birds

In order to stock various parts of the state with different game birds, the State Game Farm was established five miles north of Corvallis.

State Game Farm Mr. 'Gene M. Simpson, who has been very successful in rearing pheasants and other game birds, was employed during the summer of 1911, and his thirty acres of land leased for a term of three years. Since Mr. Simpson's place was already well equipped, the state spent comparatively little in equipment. Four different varieties of pheasants are kept at the Game Farm, Chinese or ring-necked, Reeves, Golden and Silver. Very few Silver and Golden pheasants are kept for breeding purposes. Of the Chinese pheasants, there are about 550 breeding birds and about 100 Reeves.



Young Chinese Pheasants

During the summer and fall of 1911, 1206 pheasants were reared and released. Of this number, 903 were Chinese pheasants. In 1912, 1264 pheasants were raised and liberated, of which number 831 were Chinese pheasants. These were turned out in different sections of the state where pheasants are not yet abundant. In addition to this, 120 pairs of Hungarian partridges were purchased and liberated in 1911, and the same number were distributed in 1912. During the summer of 1912, thirty settings of Chinese pheasant eggs were sent out to certain people who agreed to hatch and release a portion of the birds. Inasmuch as very few people understand how to rear pheasants, this experiment was not considered successful and will not be tried again except in cases where it has been definitely proven that persons understand the raising of these birds.

The elk that were formerly abundant in many sections of our state have diminished in number until at the present time there are but a few scattered bands in the more remote mountainous sections. An effort was made last winter to establish a herd of these animals on the Forest Reserve in Wallowa County.

Re-establishing the Elk

During the year 1907, the United States Bureau of Forestry built a five-foot wire fence around four sections of land known as the Billy Meadows Pasture. This fenced area of 2560 acres was used for three years in carrying on experiments in sheep grazing. In the fall of 1911, this pasture was turned over to the Fish and Game Commission to be used as a refuge for elk.

A herd of 15 wild elk was donated by the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture. The herd was captured at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where a large number of these animals collect every winter. The wild elk were enticed into corrals. Inasmuch as these animals can only be captured in the middle of the winter, when they are driven down from the mountains by the deep snow, it is necessary to take them at this time. The bulls were lassoed and thrown and their horns sawed off so they could be hauled in crates.



"A Bird in the Hand"

The elk were loaded in sleds and the outfit left the corrals at Jackson Hole on March 3d, 1912. The first difficulty of this experiment was a ninety-mile trip through mountains over the Teton Pass to St. Anthony, Idaho.

Unfortunately a heavy snow storm was encountered on the pass and for four days men and teams

did little else except buck through the big snow drifts. The snow piled deeper and deeper until in places it was over twenty feet. At one point, a slide narrowly missed taking men, sleds and all into a deep canyon. One sled was overturned and one of the elk killed and two others injured. On the evening of the sixth day, the caravan of sleds pulled into St. Anthony. Here the elk were unloaded into a stockyard and given a



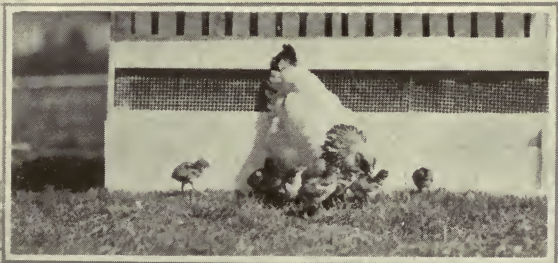
COOPS AT STATE GAME FARM



SETTINGS OF PHEASANT EGGS



HENS ON PHEASANT EGGS



MOTHER WITH YOUNG PHEASANTS

chance to rest for two days. Out of a herd of twenty-three that were brought across the mountains, fifteen of the strongest and best animals were selected for the Oregon herd, two old bulls, seven cows and six yearlings. They were loaded into an ordinary box car, seven of the largest animals in one end and eight younger animals in the other, with partitions between.



(Photos—Leslie)

We left St. Anthony about noon on March 11th and arrived at Joseph, Oregon, on the evening of March 14th. One of the most important features of the trip was the general interest in game protection that was aroused along the line. At every stop many people came to see the carload of elk. At some places, schools were dismissed so the children could see the animals and people came in for many miles from the country roundabout.

In order to bring this herd of elk to Oregon, \$351.00 were raised by subscriptions among the different Elk Lodges in the state, and \$181.25 were subscribed by the residents of Wallowa County, who paid from 50 cents to \$1.00 each toward this fund.

At Joseph the elk were given another day of rest. Crates were built on ordinary wagon beds, five and a half feet high. The fifteen elk were loaded into five wagons and on the morning of March 16th, we started for the Billy Meadows Pasture, forty-six miles to the north of Joseph.

Weather conditions were very much against us. We had expected plenty of snow so the elk could be hauled on sleds, but all the snow had melted in the valley. We could not let the elk stay in Joseph until the roads opened up in the spring, as several of the cows were with calf, so it was necessary to get them to permanent pasture as soon as possible.



TRAVELLING IN SNOW AND MUD

ENCOUNTERING A BAD SNOW STORM



IN FIVE FEET OF SNOW



TRANSFERRING FROM WAGON TO SLED

We were compelled to take two teams to the wagon and a complete camping equipment with plenty of hay and provisions. In all there were twenty-one men, nineteen teams and two saddle horses. From the first day out we encountered snow. We found the roads heavy and almost impassable in places. In two hard days of traveling we did not make over twenty-five miles. We had to double up eight horses to the wagon in some places and in others all hands had to help out of a hole or prevent a wagon from tipping over. Where the road led along the steep mountain-side, guy lines had to be used frequently to prevent the wagons from overturning. One might think the elk would make the load top-heavy but on the side hill they proved expert in balancing the load.



Half-Grown Silver Pheasant

At the end of three days we were still some twelve or fifteen miles from the pasture. Snow had been getting deeper until it was from five to seven feet. It was impossible to go further in wagons. A number of rough sleds or "go-devils," as they are called,

were constructed to use for the remaining part of the journey. It was impossible to take the elk out of the crates so as to change them from the wagon to sled. We pulled in under a pine and with block and tackle hooked to a big limb. We hoisted the crates containing the elk from the wagons and let them down on the sleds. By sending teams and men in advance to buck snow and make a road, we reached the pasture the following day, March 19th.

All the elk reached the pasture alive, although several were injured when they were first captured. During the spring one of the bulls and four cows died. The increase during the past summer consisted of one calf, making a total of eleven animals at present in the pasture.

The Biological Survey has offered the state another herd of fifteen elk, which will be added to the present herd during the coming winter. The people of Wallowa County have offered to meet the expenses of feeding and getting these elk to the pasture, if they are delivered at Joseph.



ELK ON WAY FROM JACKSON HOLE



IN STOCKADE AT ST. ANTHONY



VIEWED BY CROWDS IN TRANSIT



AT THE END OF THE TRIP

One of the most important laws to aid in the protection of wild birds and animals was passed at the 1911 session of the Legislature.

This provides that the Governor may set aside by special proclamation all lands surrounding state institutions for use as game refuges. This law also provides that the State Game

Warden may enter into agreement with the owner or owners of private land, setting aside such property as game refuges for a period of from one to ten years. This law does not interfere with the use of the land in any way, except that game birds cannot be hunted or killed on the refuge during the term of the contract.

A number of large game refuges have been established on private lands in Union, Wallowa, Harney, Umatilla, Klamath, Lane, Marion, Yamhill, Jackson and other counties in the state. Surrounding the various state institutions at Salem is a splendid refuge of about 3000 acres, where not only native birds are abundant, but other species have been introduced and are doing well. Within the boundaries of this refuge one may find several different kinds of upland game birds. Blue grouse, ruffed grouse and mountain quail are native varieties. Hungarian partridges, Reeves and Chinese pheasants and bob-white quail have been introduced and are thriving well in this locality. California or valley quail will also be introduced on this reserve. It is a rare case when one can find such a variety of upland game birds in one locality.



Interior of Fish Distributing Car, Carrying 180 Ten-Gallon Cans with Air Tubes Attached



Aneroid Lake, Wallowa County, Stocked with Eastern Brook Trout (Photo—Deremo)

The State of Oregon owns twelve different fish stations and hatcheries. Up to the time the State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners took office, these hatcheries were used almost solely for the propagation of salmon to increase commercial fishing. There was little or no co-operation in the work carried on by the Hatchery Fund and the work carried on by the Game Protection Fund. The establishment of the Commission made it possible to use these hatcheries for the propagation of both commercial and game fishes. Although the Hatchery Fund and the Game Protection Fund are still held separate, inasmuch as the Commission oversees the spending of both funds, equitable arrangement is made whereby both the

**Propagation
of
Game Fishes**



Central Hatchery at Bonneville Showing Pond System

(Photo—Gifford)

Master Fish Warden and the State Game Warden work together in using hatcheries and wardens' services. In this way both departments are run more economically than under the old system where they were separate.



Interior View Bonneville Hatchery Containing 240 Troughs

(Photo—Gifford)

The hatchery at Bonneville was established by the State for the purpose of hatching and rearing salmon. It is located at the mouth of Tanner Creek on the Columbia River, forty miles from Portland. This is an admirable site for a central state hatchery. The Commission has used \$21,895.98 of the Angler's License Fund during 1911 and 1912 in enlarging, equipping and carrying on trout propagation. The water supply has been increased and a number of ponds have been built for holding brood

**Bonneville
Hatchery**



Tanks in One of the Trout Houses

(Photo—Gifford)

trout. The land upon which this hatchery is located is owned by the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Company. It was leased to the State. Papers have recently been drawn up for the sale to the State of this property, comprising a little over forty-five acres. This will be paid for by money from the Game Protection Fund at the price of \$100 per acre. With the improvements that have been made, Bonneville hatchery is now one of the largest and best salmon and trout hatcheries in the United States.

At the McKenzie River Hatchery, trout ponds have been built and brood trout are kept for the purpose of collecting eggs and hatching and rearing the fry to the fingerling stage, so as to stock streams in that part of the country.

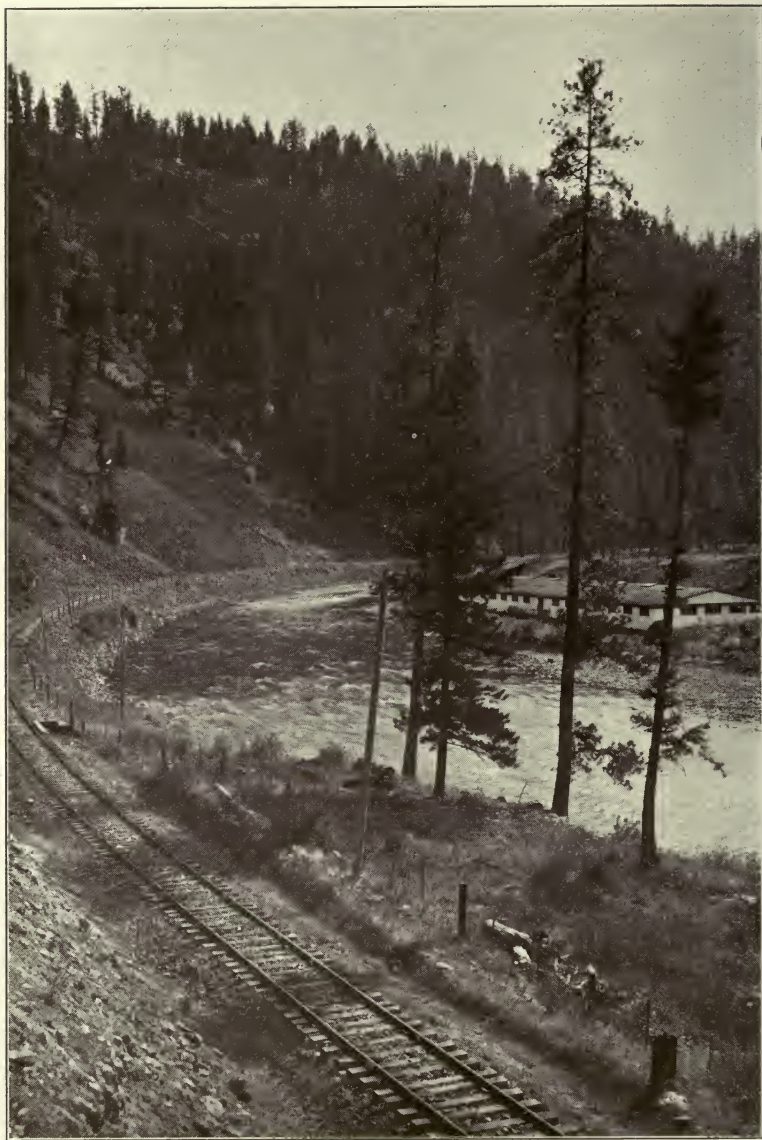
During the past year and a half this Department has worked in close co-operation with Mr. Henry O'Malley, who is superintendent in charge of this district for the United States Bureau of Fisheries. The Commission has furnished funds to supplement the amount appropriated by the Government to carry on trout work in Oregon.

**Co-operation With
United States
Bureau of Fisheries**

During 1911 money was used from the Game Protection Fund to feed 1,017,190 trout fry until they reached the fingerling stage. These were then released in different streams by the Bureau of Fisheries, under the direction of the Game Department. During the year 1912 the same arrangement was continued, and fingerling trout to the number of 1,435,681 were released in the different streams of the state, after the eggs had been collected by the United States Bureau of Fisheries and the trout raised to the fingerling stage.



Landing a Silverside Salmon



Wallowa River Hatchery

(Photo—Weister)

The total number of trout reared in State Hatcheries, and released under the direction of the Commission in 1911, was 323,700. The total number of bass and crappies seined out of sloughs and ponds along the Columbia River and released in different waters of the State during 1911 was 565,000. In 1912 the total number of trout purchased, reared and released, under direction of the Commission at State Hatcheries, was 4,608,865. Total of black bass, crappies and catfish collected and released during the same period was 1,400,000. This makes the total number of 1,905,890 game fish planted in 1911. The total in 1912 was 7,444,546.



Angling for Chinook Salmon, Willamette Falls

As it is impossible to transfer fingerling trout and bass from the hatcheries to streams in various parts of the state without a car especially built to handle young fish, arrangements have been made with the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Company to purchase a completely equipped fish distributing car at the price of \$6,800.00. This will be ready for use in May, 1913.

Trout Distribution In the Cascade Mountains, from Cazadero southeast to Bend, is a large territory with many lakes which heretofore contained no fish. One of the most important works of the Commission during the past season was the stocking of these lakes with trout. Under the direction of S. S. Mohler, special cans were made to be packed on horses. Fingerling fry were delivered to the pack train at Detroit and Bend and from there they were transported into the high mountain lakes. A total number of 97,420 small fish were distributed in eighty-three different lakes. Within a few years, it is hoped, these fish will grow and increase; thus furnishing abundant fishing in this high mountain district.

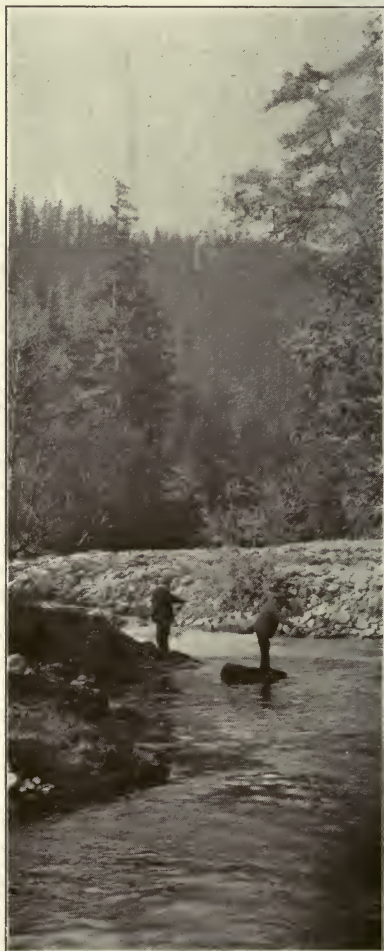
The largest item of expenditure from the Game Protection Fund is in the employment of deputy game wardens in different parts of the state. From 35 to 40 regular wardens are hired throughout the year. The average salary of a regular deputy is \$75.00 per month and traveling expenses. A district deputy is paid from \$85.00 to \$100.00 per month

and necessary traveling expenses.

With the amount of money to spend in warden service it is impossible to patrol a state the size of Oregon. The effort has been to place deputies where they will do the most effective work. The plan has been used during the past year of shifting men from place to place in order to have them cover as much ground as possible. This requires more expense, but has given more effective service. With the idea of improving the warden service, an effort is being made to get men for game warden work who study and know game conditions, who can secure the co-operation of the farmers and land owners throughout the state, and who assist in and encourage the killing of those predatory animals which are the enemies of game.

The efficiency of the Game Department will be greatly increased during the coming year since the United States Bureau of Forestry has issued orders to all supervisors, assistants and rangers to not only work in co-

operation with this department, but actively assist in the enforcement of game laws. The state employs fire wardens to enforce the forestry



Angling in Row River (Photo—Weister)

laws. These men will also co-operate with the Game Department in the enforcement of the game laws in their particular districts. In patrol work, all forestry wardens and rangers cover areas where game is most abundant and where it needs protection. From the standpoint of economy the Government Forestry Service, the State Forestry Patrol and the State Game Department should co-operate closely in the enforcement of all forestry and game laws.



Female Pintail Duck

(Photo—Bohlman)

The State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners is trying to make fishing and hunting an important resource of Oregon. Fields and forests that abound in game and streams that are stocked with fish furnish a most attractive advertisement for any state. Hunting and fishing are two drawing cards for a desirable class of tourists who have money to spend and money to invest. Game protection and propagation is a business proposition, not only for the man who lives in the city, but for the farmer, the fruit grower and the timber man.

**Aims
of the
Commission**

Game laws and game protection cannot be made effective until we get the real interest of the farmers, homesteaders and other land owners throughout the state. The rigid enforcement of game and fish laws is not sufficient without propagation. Protection and propagation of game birds and animals are not sufficient unless a campaign is carried on against the predatory animals that are continually destroying game. The propagation of fish is not sufficient if we allow our streams to be polluted with the filth of factories, mills and cities, which is a quick method of diseasing and destroying young fish. Liberating large numbers of trout and salmon fry in our streams is of no avail if these are carried out in unscreened ditches to die in the fields. Such abuses must be corrected.



The Deschutes River, One of Oregon's Best Trout Streams

(Photo--Weister)

RECORD OF HUNTING AND ANGLING LICENSES SOLD DURING 1912

	RESIDENT		NON-RESIDENT	
	Hunting	Angling	Hunting	Angling
Baker	920	840		
Benton	905	851		
Clackamas	1,007	1,377		
Clatsop	869	932	1	
Columbia	538	510	10	6
Coos	2,346	1,374	4	5
Crook	707	1,490		1
Curry	382	189	13	6
Douglas	2,387	1,299	7	6
Gilliam	245	68	22	
Grant	295	398		
Harney	606	257	1	
Hood River	475	770		1
Jackson	3,498	2,934	7	8
Josephine	1,411	852	7	12
Klamath	1,869	1,232	41	126
Lake	867	586		1
Lane	2,388	2,271	4	14
Lincoln	538	434		1
Linn	1,380	1,329		1
Malheur	349	149	8	
Marion	2,592	2,842		4
Morrow	161	154		
Multnomah	4,664	10,859	11	6
Polk	615	750	2	1
Sherman	109	173		
Tillamook	757	1,134		2
Umatilla	1,527	1,558	12	97
Union	1,076	1,237		4
Wallowa	828	1,142	2	4
Wasco	656	1,113		
Washington	1,129	975		
Wheeler	91	62		
Yamhill	1,080	1,292		4
	<u>39,267</u>	<u>43,433</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>310</u>

RECAPITULATION

39,267 Resident Hunting Licenses at \$ 1.00	\$39,267.00
43,433 Resident Angling Licenses at 1.00	43,433.00
152 Non-resident Hunting Licenses at \$10.00	1,520.00
310 Non-resident Angling Licenses at 5.00	1,550.00

Total 83,162 Total amount added to Game Protection Fund \$85,770.00



